

Divine 741

Chapter 741: The Black Silhouette

"Let's go." Zhou Huaijin said gently.

Gu Chaoyan nodded with a smile. Although Spring Hunt was like a contest, the participants often walked in a gang. Zhou Huaijin must think about joining her since he was worried.

She was not very familiar with the woods for the Spring Hunt, so it was good that someone who had the knowledge of it could be by her side.

The forest was very huge.

Some people were within sight at the beginning, but soon, no one else could be seen.

"Let's get some huge monsters, not just those small ones for Spring Hunt." Zhou Huaijin reminded her.

Normally there would be many prey hunted after the Spring Hunt.

Shooting the small animals was just a waste of life, since they were normally abandoned after being shot, since people in the court did not eat animals that had been dead for a while. Also, it was hard to offer gifts from small animals. So Zhou Huaijin normally got the large-sized animals.

Those animals were weighty enough and their skin could be useful too.

Gu Chaoyan nodded. She understood what he meant. So they ignored the rabbits on the way here.

"Elder Miss, there is a doe over there!" Sword One said as she raised the arrows. It was a very large, mature doe.

When Gu Chaoyan saw that...

She raised her bow and knocked away Sword One's arrow.

Sword One was confused. "Elder Miss?"

Gu Chaoyan let out a sigh of relief. One step slower, Sword One would have hit the doe, but the doe got startled and rushed off.

Gu Chaoyan explained. "The doe is pregnant with babies."

Sword One was startled. She had been trained in hunting, but she never noticed that.

Elder Miss was right, as she thought it through.

Pray needed to reproduce, so they should not shoot pregnant animals. It seemed that only Elder Miss was careful enough to notice that.

Sword One nodded. "I got it."

The three of them continued to walk forward.

They ran into other deer on the way, and they shot the male, mature deer. On the way, they had harvested a great deal.

The forest got even deeper as they went forward.

Those wild animals were always unexpected in the deep forest, and no one could predict what kind of large animals would be there. So participants for the Spring Hunt often went deep into the mountains and forests. Only when a large animal was found would Spring Hunt be concluded properly.

Zhou Huaijin took a look at Gu Chaoyan. He had not wanted her to go deeper inside, but seeing that Gu Chaoyan had no intention of stopping, Zhou Huaijin said nothing more and respected her intention of going further.

However, they needed to be very careful as they went deeper.

Zhou Huaijin had been cautious about what was going on around them. It was very quiet on the way, with nothing popping up, but that made them even more alert.

When small animals were absent from these areas, there were often some large ones living there, because those small animals were either too scared to be there or were eaten by the large animals.

Zhou Huaijin had been frowning cautiously. Sword One was really cautious as well.

Zhou Huaijin had been here last year and right on this spot, they got a tiger, just a normal, mature tiger which was brought down by his men without making much effort, but this year, it seemed that tigers were nowhere to be seen.

Suddenly, a very large black silhouette attacked them at an incredible speed.

Chapter 742: The First Place

When hearing the strange sound, Zhou Huaijin quickly shielded Gu Chaoyan, raised the bows and arrows as he shot into the direction of sound. In the meanwhile, both Gu Chaoyan and Sword One shot arrows as well. The arrows hit the large black silhouette, yet it gave no response. That black silhouette was still moving towards them at a high speed.

“No...” Zhou Huaijin let out a surprised cry.

They finally got to see what that big thing was by this point.

Unlike any other possible wild animal in the forest, it was a very enormous black serpent, the largest Zhou Huaijin had ever seen in his life!

If it opened the mouth, it could gulf down the three of them together. And now... It did not seem to pay any attention towards the attacking arrows, and it was coming towards their way with its mouth widely opened.

Zhou Huaijin instantly shielded Gu Chaoyan. “Back off, you two.”

Having said this, he hopped up and started to stab the serpent with the sword, but the secret was too large for Zhou Huaijin to stab. The snake continued to move forward as if it felt nothing.

Gu Chaoyan turned around and saw what was going on.

She sensed that something was wrong.

This black enormous serpent was different from normal ones. It was full of vitality and had a strong ability to recover.

It kept draining Zhou Huaijin's energy.

Gu Chaoyan thought for a while as she took out the medical bottle, which contained an extremely poisonous drug, which Gu Chaoyan made a couple of days ago. Now it had finally come into use.

She could not reach it, so she turned to Sword One. "Sword One, lift me up to its eyes!"

When Sword One heard this, she did not hesitate for a second.

She jumped up with Gu Chaoyan.

It was a very urgent situation where no mistakes were allowed. Lord Huai was very good at martial arts, but he was not strong enough to deal with the serpent. Sword One decided to trust Elder Miss, because she always believed that Elder Miss was a woman that tended to create miracles. So she subconsciously decided to obey the order.

When Gu Chaoyan was lifted, she took out the bottle and sprinkled the drug upon the black serpent's eyes.

When the snake was poisoned, its large body started moving crazily.

Since it could not see anything, all it could do was bump around randomly.

Zhou Huaijin took the opportunity, stabbing right into the serpent's stomach, and dug out the gallbladder.

Only then did the white serpent gradually stop moving.

Sword One placed Gu Chaoyan back on the horse. Both of them were panting, but they exchanged a look and smiled.

Zhou Huaijin had tied up the black serpent with something. When the serpent was tied, he held a rope in hand and waved at Gu Chaoyan. "We can go back now, it is a huge harvest for us!"

Zhou Huaijin did not blame Sword One for lifting Chaoyan, because he just noticed that the two girls were smiling at each other, so he did not want to ruin the happy mood.

"With this serpent around, I am definitely going to win the contest." Zhou Huaijin said with a smile, "It is a great job by the three of us!"

Sword One and Gu Chaoyan were both smiling.

In the pitch of the Spring Hunt...

Zhou Huailing had already returned, and the rest of the participants arrived one after another too.

Zhou Huailing had killed two tigers in the deep mountains.

With these two tigers as prey, he believed that he was going to be the winner, thus leaving the field directly.

Chapter 743: Lord Huai's Prey

In the Spring Hunt last year, the winner got one tiger, and he was from Zhou Huaijin's team, but Zhou Huaijin did not get the tiger personally. The man he picked got the tiger instead. It was an unknown guard, who was later arranged to work at the Ministry of Military because of the hunted tiger.

And their team lost because they did not have a tiger.

However Zhou Huailing did not care, because his Eighth Brother did not get the tiger himself; someone else did. So he did not really care about losing that contest before, but he and Eighth Brother were in the contest alone this time. So he had to pay some attention too.

Well, he had nothing to fear either. He got two tigers by himself, which never happened in the previous years of the Spring Hunt, so he was definitely going to win the contest.

He got the tigers, thanks to his mount, otherwise he alone would not be able to get the two large animals.

At this moment, the other participants, including Young Master Min, were showing a look of surprise. "Lord Ling, you've got two tigers, that is so capable of you! You are definitely going to win the contest."

Young Master Min was trying to flatter him a little, yet he was, after all, telling the truth from his heart. No one else would be able to get equally excellent animals.

Zhou Huailing had done it himself!

Hearing what Young Master Min said, the other Young Masters all came around to pass on congratulations to Zhou Huailing, especially Gu Yunhe, who was the most active. He almost hailed Zhou Huailing up into the sky.

Zhou Huailing was also very confident, as he waited for Zhou Huaijin to come home.

The King was also quite pleased seeing the two dead tigers.

When Gu Chaoyan and Sword One returned, Zhou Huailing got up and took a look behind their backs. Sure enough, Zhou Huaijin came around too, but...

Zhou Huaijin did not seem to have any animals with him. Except for a few deer.

Zhou Huailing smiled. "Eighth Brother, is that the only stuff you got after being out for so long? You are definitely going to lose the contest," He said as he pointed at the two tigers lying next to him.

“Eighth Brother, you are an adult already, so you should practice riding and shooting more, otherwise we imperial children will be totally humiliated, even Young Master Min and other people have gotten a great deal this year.” Zhou Huailing said.

Zhou Huaijin looked at him and said calmly, “That is not all.”

“What do you mean?”

“I have got more than a few deer. I have a huge thing, but it is too heavy for the rope to bear, so I am here to get some helpers who can go and carry it.” Zhou Huaijin showed a small smile on his face.

What? A big thing? So big that the rope was broken... Zhou Huailing looked at what Zhou Huaijin was holding in hands – it was indeed a broken rope.

What was it that was so heavy?

Zhou Huailing could not understand.

It already took a lot of effort for him to get two tigers, and he had also created a historical record by doing this. Zhou Huaijin, who was out hunting with just a pony, could not have got anything better than two tigers, could he?

“Lord Huai, did you get a large wild boar? We only consider tigers as big things, and big wild boars are not counted.” Gu Yunhe laughed.

Lord Huai was also a participant for the Spring Hunt, but he had just heard from other young masters that Lord Huai would never be able to hunt anything, since he always relied on others to get the animals. So since he was out there alone, Gu Yunhe did not believe that he would be able to get anything big or good. And maybe he did not even know that a large wild boar was not a match against a small tiger, let alone two tigers.

When Gu Yunhe said these words, Zhou Huailing seemed to have understood. He laughed as he said to the men next to him as well as the imperial army, “You guys, go and help Lord Huai to carry his wild boar here!”

Chapter 744: That....

When hearing wild boar, the crowd burst into laughter. Many in the crowd were mostly Lord Ling’s men or took Lord Ling’s side. So when Lord Ling said wild boar, the crowd of course laughed alongside.

Gu Yunhe, in particular, was the one that laughed most wildly.

Gu Yunhe had always been very annoyed about what happened to him and Princess Xunyang, but now Lord Ling was more or less the decision maker in the court, so he dared to look down at Lord Huai on this occasion.

There were several of them who were not laughing, like Min Qing from the Min Family, and Chu Yu, the Young Master of the Prime Minister.

These two families were those that had not taken their sides yet.

When the crowd finished laughing, they followed Zhou Huaijin to carry the prey.

When Zhou Huailing did not follow them, these people did not dare to be too wild. After all, Lord Huai was still one of the imperial children no matter how much he was disgraced at the moment. He was someone that the other people were not in a match against.

So the crowd followed him quietly.

When they came to the forest, they were already more or less able to see the enormous figure of a black serpent in the woods. Only then did the crowd start to feel that something else was going on, and that what Lord Huai had killed was more than a wild boar.

Min Qing had also noticed the strangeness. He asked in surprise. "Lord Huai, is that the prey that you got?"

Zhou Huaijin nodded.

Hearing what Min Qing asked, the whole crowd turned to the large animal.

That was not a wild boar. What was that? It was so huge and it was black!

The crowd hastened subconsciously. They were all very curious.

Chu Yu and Min Qing led the crowd. Especially Min Qing, who had sped up in excitement.

As he came closer to the animal, Min Qing was extremely startled. "That is... that is..."

"A massive serpent!" Chu Yu shouted.

When hearing what the animal was and seeing the size, the rest of the crowd got so frightened that they took a few steps backwards and did not dare to get closer.

Seeing that the crowd became timid, Chu Yu shouted loudly, "Go and get the animal, what are you all retreating for?"

Only now did those people try to take some steps forward.

"Is it... dead?" One of the Young Masters from some family asked with a shivering voice.

"It is dead, otherwise you would already have been eaten instead of having a chance to ask any question here." Zhou Huaijin replied with an expressionless face.

That man swallowed loudly. Although he was aware that the animal was dead, he was still quite frightened at the sight of it.

That was such an enormous serpent. One that he had never seen before. Even in the strange tales about the capital, there was never any story about a serpent that was such a large size. It was only known that there used to be one in the previous dynasty, one that was as large as three meters and had eaten more than a dozen people.

This serpent, on the other hand, looked different.

As far as they could estimate, it was as long as eight or nine meters. A living animal like this would definitely have swallowed them all, but how could such a horrid thing live in the deep mountains? That confused the crowd.

However, Min Qing and Chu Yu were more excited than scared. How excellent Lord Huai must have been to have killed such a large serpent with his own hands.

Before they were able to give it one more thought, Zhou Huaijin was already arranging the crowd to carry the animal back to the pitch.

Zhou Huailing as well as Gu Yunhe, who were in the pitch of the Spring Hunt, were both laughing. Zhou Huailing could not help, but say to the King, "Eighth Brother still makes so much effort to just carry a wild boar.."

Chapter 745: Lord Huai Won

The King nodded slightly.

Because of the Queen, the King had not been holding a grudge towards Zhou Huaijin like before any more. He was, after all, his own son and he should not live a bad life no matter what, but he also expected that he could only be treated like a normal imperial lord.

Lord Huai had been spoiled since little, and he had not been very rational when it came to a lot of things. He was not a very skilled person, and he won the Spring Hunt every year by depending on others. However, it was already excellent of him to get a wild boar for the Spring Hunt this year.

A wild boar was also a ferocious thing after all, though it was not as ferocious as a tiger.

Gu Yunhe had been smirking next to them. Then people who carried the thing started to emerge from the woods.

Zhou Huailing and Gu Yunhe took a step forward and came to the middle section of the pitch.

As the crowd started to get closer...

Zhou Huailing's expression started to get more and more complicated. The crowd did not seem to be carrying a wild boar.

Zhou Huailing had even thought that he had not seen it clearly, so he patted Gu Yunhe and asked, "What are they carrying? Is it a wild boar?"

Gu Yunhe got dumbfounded too.

No, it did not seem like it. That was not what a wild boar was like. That animal seemed really long.

Gu Yunhe shook his head slightly. "It doesn't look like it."

At this moment, the other people on site also saw what was being carried. General Liu became extremely excited, as he ran forward and pointed at the thing that was carried to the site. "That is... that is an enormous serpent!"

What?

Zhou Huailing just could not believe what he had heard. He took a few steps forward, trying to catch a clear glimpse of what was there.

When he heard what General Liu said, he seemed to believe that it was something like that, but how could that thing be so big?

The serpent was carried all the way to the pitch.

Zhou Huailing was so dumbfounded that his expression became twisted. He had been laughing and saying that it was a wild boar, but what was placed in front of him was an enormous serpent that had not been seen in hundreds of years. It made him feel so terrible.

Especially when the black enormous serpent was placed next to the two tigers, the two tigers looked so small, not at all as powerful-looking as they had been a while ago.

Although Min Qing and Chu Yu were only there to help carry the thing. They could not help but show an expression of pride on their faces.

General Liu asked excitedly, "Lord Huai, what is this?"

"That is an enormous serpent Chaoyan and I ran into when we went deep into the woods. The serpent was large and thick, and it moved quite quickly as well. We could have escaped from it, but the serpent had apparently become possessed, and it would one day be harmful for the locals, so I decided to kill it," Zhou Huaijin said relaxedly as if it were a tiny thing.

General Liu looked at him in admiration. "Excellent!"

Zhou Huaijin smiled.

As he came to Zhou Huailing he asked with a slight smile on his face. "What do you think, Fourth Brother, do you think you won the contest or I did?"

Zhou Huailing had a terrible look on his face. However, before he was able to say anything, General Liu said loudly and firmly, "Lord Huai won the contest!"

Zhou Huailing had a worse look on his face by this point.

He glared at Gu Yunhe and snapped. "What nonsense did you talk about just now! Did you see the wild boar Eighth Brother got for you to be so sure about it?"

Gu Yunhe did not dare to counter him. Instead, he was standing silently next to them.

Zhou Huaijin showed a small smile and walked towards the King with a box in hands.

The King was looking very pale too. The moment he saw the serpent, he got frightened too. "Go back to the court! That is all for the Spring Hunt!"

"Father!" Zhou Huaijin called out.

"What is it?" The King asked indifferently.

Zhou Huaijin passed the box to De Fu, who gave it to the King. The King almost passed out at the sight of what was inside. He asked De Fu to close the lid directly.

"This is the gallbladder of the giant serpent. It is my present to you, father," Zhou Huaijin said calmly.

“De Fu, just put it away,” the King said uneasily, then he got up and decided to leave for the court.

It was already a very excellent achievement if someone got tigers in the Spring Hunt in the past few years. Tigers mostly lived in the deep woods and did not show up easily. Therefore, they were hard to get. So it was totally fine when they were shot and presented to the King, but things were different now.

This prey was a giant serpent with a length of more than seven or eight meters, something that had not been seen in hundreds of years! Also, it was not living deep in the woods of the mountains. The range of Spring Hunt was not that big after all.

So if such a giant serpent was seen, then there might be other giant serpents, or even bigger ones moving about.

That was what made the King panic. Therefore, he decided to leave this place, fearing that some unexpected danger would occur.

The King left for the court in a hurry, so the Spring Hunt ended in a hurry as well.

Zhou Huailing did not even catch up with the King’s chariot. He went back to Lord Ling’s Mansion alone.

As for the giant serpent, Zhou Huaijin and General Liu as well as other military staff were dealing with it.

On the way back to Lord Ling’s Mansion...

Zhou Huailing’s expression sank deeply.

He was displeased. He was very displeased.

The Spring Hunt was the most important event in the Saint Divine Land.

He had thought about shining brightly in the Spring Hunt so as to prove that he was the right side for the ministers to take. However, he had not expected that so many accidents would occur.

He got really angry when he remembered how he not only failed to stand out, but also got humiliated.

He glared at Gu Ruxue in the wagon and snapped coldly. “Why are you messing around in Spring Hunt!? Why did you force Gu Chaoyan to bring out her riding tool!? The phoenix did not have to show up today! Now everyone has seen the bird, and you may lose your position as the Phoenix Girl!

“And you always mess around outside whilst achieving nothing at Lord Huai’s Mansion. You are worse than the previous Princess Consort!” Zhou Huailing snapped.

He was truly pissed today. Nothing that happened today was making him stand out. So he blamed everything upon Gu Ruxue.

When hearing that she was worse than the previous Princess Consort, Gu Ruxue got even more annoyed.

They had been divorced for so long, but he was still thinking about the old Princess Consort and he was even comparing them! That was not a woman deserving enough for a comparison. She was the Phoenix Girl after all!

Gu Ruxue countered angrily. "It was my fault to have irritated Gu Chaoyan, but just look at yourself! You claim to be better than Lord Huai, but what have you got and what has he got? It is you who messed things up, not me!

"I am the Phoenix Girl no matter what. Even if I lost to Gu Chaoyan today, I am still the Phoenix Girl. However, you are different, you and Lord Huai are just lords, and you have lost the game against him!" Gu Ruxue said angrily.

Gu Ruxue had changed. She had been used to being the Phoenix Girl and was pretty aware of what this title could do for her. So she had seen through many things.

Zhou Huailing was startled for a moment before turning to Gu Ruxue with fierceness in his eyes.

Chapter 747: To Gu Mansion

Zhou Huailing did have feelings for Gu Ruxue, but that was mostly because she was the Phoenix Girl. However, he did not like it if she became clever.

The Gu Mansion used to be a very minor mansion in the past, and Gu Ruxue could not even be considered a noble lady. The only thing that was a little different was that there used to be a Princess Gu born in the mansion. As he approached Gu Ruxue, the whole mansion started to suck up to him.

He was very happy to be treated like that. And he was happy that Gu Ruxue was the Phoenix Girl too! However, what he had not expected was that one day, Gu Ruxue would become smart! She was clearly aware of how important she was as the Phoenix Girl.

What Gu Ruxue had said was simply telling him that there were many lords in the capital whilst there was only one Phoenix Girl in the whole world. She also indicated that she could choose whoever she wanted, and that person she chose would become the heir.

He had always thrown his temper at Gu Ruxue, because he never expected that Gu Ruxue would have seen this point.

However, what she had said today was different. Apparently she was pretty aware of this point by now and she seemed to be quite satisfied by his Eighth Brother.

Zhou Huailing had the urge to kill Gu Ruxue at that moment, but he had no choice, but to tolerate whatever she was doing at the moment.

When Gu Ruxue betrayed him with another man, he had to ignore that. When Gu Ruxue praised the Eighth Brother, he had to ignore that too.

That was only because he was still far from the throne, and he needed Gu Ruxue as the Phoenix Girl!

Zhou Huailing's anger disappeared within one second.

Soon he showed a gentle smile, as he took hold of Gu Ruxue's hands and said gently. "Ruxue, you are my Princess Consort, how can you say things like that?"

“Yes, it was my mistake to have lectured you like this. I should not have thrown my temper at you or mentioned the previous Princess Consort, even if I am met with something unhappy. She is not as good as you at all!

“I am just worried, so I got angry. Things went so terribly today, especially when Gu Chaoyan took out a phoenix! Although my father ordered that the news should not be spread, many people were present at the Spring Hunt, so the news will be leaked sooner or later. I am just worried about you, because when the news is out, you will be the one that suffers,” Zhou Huailing said and showed a look of worry to Gu Ruxue.

Gu Ruxue had already dropped the arrogant air of hers.

Honestly, Lord Ling had been treating her well and planned everything for her sake, except that he got anxious when running into some affairs.

Like what he was doing right now, he was still doing this for her.

Gu Ruxue sighed and cuddled in Zhou Huailing’s arms and said with a sigh, “Lord, you have suffered a lot!”

When she finished speaking, Gu Ruxue suddenly thought of something. She noticed that it was still not very late yet.

“Let’s not go back to the mansion today, take me to Gu Mansion now.” Gu Ruxue said anxiously, “Lord, you are right, too many people have seen the phoenix today, and the news will be spread. We have to deal with it now. Gu Chaoyan isn’t a big deal, but I can talk with my father about how to deal with it.”

Hearing these words, Zhou Huailing believed that it made sense. He had been too angry just now to realize that it was an urgent matter to deal with.

The phoenix had been following Gu Chaoyan’s order, but that did not necessarily mean that it belonged to Gu Chaoyan.

They could get the phoenix and take it as their own.

“Go to the Gu Mansion now!” Zhou Huailing said directly.

Chapter 748: Getting the Queen Back

In the court.

The King did not feel assured, until he hurried back to the court.

He asked De Fu to serve him a kettle of tea to cool him down. He was sweating all over his head as he was seated in Qianqing Palace. What the King had seen was just a dead giant black serpent, but the King felt as if he had witnessed a living one.

Before the old King passed, he told him something about what happened to the imperial family in history apart from the tales of the Destiny Monk and the Phoenix Girl.

Story went on the continent in the past...

Other beings existed apart from the four standing countries. Those beings were powerful things that had been sealed inside the restricted area.

The King didn't say everything very clearly, but when the King saw the black giant serpent, he thought of what the King said. And that snake was so weirdly big. So the animal should be related to what happened in ancient times.

"De Fu, go and bring the Prime Minister here," the King said.

De Fu went off directly.

As the King sent the order to bring the Prime Minister here... He had been thinking about the Queen the entire time. The Queen moved from the court before the New Year and went to the town for disease treatment. It was a town where the imperial family used to stay to spend the summer. The town had a very beautiful surrounding and it was most beautiful in spring. However, the town was located deep in the mountains, thus providing a cool space for summer.

When the King thought of the giant serpent, he involuntarily thought of the Queen. There were too many unknown things deep in the mountains and she might not be safe staying there, so she needed to come back to the court.

As the King thought of this, he asked De Fu to bring the Empress Dowager here.

The Empress Dowager had been in charge of everything in the town, so he needed to have a discussion with her regarding getting the Queen back.

Cining Palace was not located too far away, so the Empress Dowager arrived very soon after De Fu went to fetch her.

She had been holding a terrible look on her face, after hearing that the King had the intention of bringing the Queen back.

The reason why she sent the Queen away was because she wanted to make her stay out of the King's sight, so that as time went by, he would gradually forget about her.

After the celebration of Chinese New Year, the Empress Dowager had assumed that the Queen had been forgotten, and she even thought about getting new concubines for the King after the Spring Hunt.

Honored Princess Jing was a nice one, but she wasn't that young any more.

Remaining in the court were only senior princesses. So she planned to get some young and vital ones for the King in case he thought of the Queen, but now... the Spring Hunt had just taken place and the King just could not wait to bring the Queen back. That really annoyed the Empress Dowager.

She hurried to the Qianqing Palace.

The King said directly at the sight of the Empress Dowager, "Mother, could you please arrange it so that the Queen returns as soon as possible. When I was out during the Spring Hunt, Eighth Son killed a really large serpent, it was a very large one living in the mountain! I am thinking that the Queen might not be

safe staying in the town located at the foot of the mountain, something terrible might appear! The Queen has not been well, and things might get worse if she gets frightened.”

When the Empress Dowager heard that, she did not answer him directly. Instead, she sat down first, then she took a sip of tea.

She thought for a while then she replied. “I don’t think it is the right time to bring her back right now. The Queen had been doing better in the past, but these last two days, she is getting worse. I don’t think that she will be able to make it through. If you are still worried, we can send her more imperial guards for protection.”

“Then I can go and visit her in the town personally!” the King said.

Chapter 749: The Heir

That was an idea that came to the King subconsciously. He had considered the potential danger in the town, but not the Queen’s sickness. He would like to see her personally, and bring her back no matter what.

When the Empress Dowager heard what the King said, she was startled.

Going to visit her personally? That would not work.

The Queen had been sick for too long and she was so pale-looking! For one thing, the King would probably get affected, and for another, he might feel guilty and concerned at the sight of her. If he got concerned, he might feel the old affection returning to him and that was something she would not allow to happen. So she stopped and said, “Not right now.”

“It is still the Spring Hunt, and the princes as well as the ambassadors of other countries are still here! Also, the issue about Xunyang is still a problem for you to solve right now! You have to deal with these urgent affairs first. If the Queen gets better during the process and becomes strong enough to travel with a wagon, then I can bring her back directly. If not, you can visit her at that point,” the Empress Dowager said persuasively.

When the King heard her words, he became troubled again.

The Spring Hunt was already finished, so there was nothing special about it now, but finding Xunyang was the most important thing of all.

After the Spring Hunt, the prince of North Qi was going home, and he was supposed to take Xunyang, but Xunyang was nowhere to be seen... who was going to be taken away by him?

If he had foreseen that something like this would happen, he would not have offered a portrait for him to see, so that he could just get one County Princess or Prefecture Princess to replace the real Princess’ place.

However, now Xuan Lin already knew what Xunyang looked like, so the issue would be harder to handle.

The King felt very annoyed when Xunyang was mentioned. So he gave up thinking about the Queen. He waved his hand and said, "Okay, mother, you are right, we will leave the Queen alone for the moment."

The Empress Dowager nodded in satisfaction. She was thinking about mentioning getting new princesses for the King, but Chu Tian, the Prime Minister arrived, so the Empress Dowager dropped the topic first and waited for the right moment.

"What is it, King?" Chu Tian asked cautiously.

"The most important thing is to find the Destiny Monk first, we can't continue to be like this any more. Expand your search and add more men for it. The earlier, the better, otherwise the whole world might become chaotic! Also, keep this as a secret, and keep your mouths sealed!" The King stressed. As he mentioned this, he thought of the young man he saw in the Spring Hunt. "I think your son Chu Yu is a nice person, bring him along with you, and find the Destiny Monk as soon as possible!"

Hearing that the King was in such a hurry, Chu Tian believed that something important must be happening. so he nodded constantly, but he asked curiously, "King, is it because of the black giant serpent?"

The King nodded, but he said nothing more, "It is very important, so don't ask any more questions, just start your search now."

Chu Tian understood, then he hurried away from the court.

When he was done with Chu Tian, the King was thinking about how to deal with the issue of Xunyang, so he turned to De Fu. "Go and bring Honored Princess Jing here."

Instead of asking anything more, De Fu hurried away.

Honored Princess Jing had been inside her palace all this while and had no idea what was happening. She believed that she was asked for by the King because of Zhou Huailing.

"King, is it something to do with Ling?" Honored Princess Jing asked anxiously.

The King waved his hands, suggesting that she should sit down.

Honored Princess Jing took the seat and the King looked straight into her eyes. "Honored Princess, you should know that the heir has not been announced, but..."

Chapter 750: An Idea

"I have always considered Ling the heir, and I made up my mind when I named him! I had to keep a low-profile for you and him, so I took that character for his name. I have never changed my mind, so why did you do that?" The King said in confusion as he looked at Honored Princess Jing.

When Honored Princess Jing heard what the King said, she had a very happy expression on her face. She assumed that when the King mentioned the heir, he must be about to announce it directly, but as the sentence went on... Honored Princess Jing felt that something was wrong.

Why did she do that? What?

“King, what do you mean? What did I do?” Honored Princess Jing asked in confusion.

She had always intended to do something to the Queen, but the Empress Dowager had stopped her, saying that the Queen was not doing well after all, and that she did not need to do anything about her. So from that time on, she had not done anything and let everything go on smoothly.

So when the King mentioned this directly... Did he mean that he had found something and was going to blame that to her?

Honored Princess Jing looked at the King with a very confused expression on her face.

The King got up and looked outside, saying, “Xunyang is missing and my men have been searching for her for a long while, but she is still nowhere to be seen. Xunyang has always been in the court and she has never been out of the court at all. The person that kidnapped her and kept her right in the court should be very familiar with the layout of the court.”

“Honored Princess, I have owed you much, so even if you have done something terrible, I won’t blame you. And also, I am telling you right here that even if I leave the Queen and Lord Huai alone, you don’t need to worry about anything. I am going to treat you and Ling well no matter what! Therefore, release Xunyang. You don’t need to do anything like this just to set up Lord Huai,” the King said seriously. He looked at Honored Princess Jing, with a calm expression.

He believed that what he was doing and how he put the whole thing was already quite proper. So this matter should be done properly and Honored Princess Jing would accept that as well.

However, Honored Princess Jing looked at the King and showed a very complicated look on her face. “King, do you mean that I have kidnapped Xunyang just to set up Lord Huai?”

“I didn’t do that, and I don’t have to do that either!” Honored Princess Jing said with determination.

She had done a lot of terrible things, but she truly did not do that. She did not even give a damn about Princess Xunyang!

The King looked at Honored Princess Jing, who looked like she was telling the truth, but he still did not trust her completely – so Honored Princess Jing refused to admit it?

“King, you can investigate me as much as you want!” Honored Princess Jing said.

“Okay, okay, I am just asking you about it because the Prince of the North Qi is going home and he is taking Xunyang away. However, Xunyang is missing now, and I am so anxious.” The King admitted helplessly.

He seemed to be stuck in a dead end for this matter.

Xunyang could not be found anywhere and the Prince knew what she looked like, so they could not possibly find an imposter. More importantly, the Prince was very satisfied by how Xunyang looked, especially after he saw the portrait. So if the King betrayed him, the Prince might make use of the magical monsters and combine forces with the other three countries to counter him! That would be very annoying to deal with.

“King, I have an idea,” Honored Princess Jing said..